Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Lucy (McDermott) Downie was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, on February 1, 1919. She lived most of her life in Britton, South Dakota. She was one of ten children. Her mother, a piano teacher, taught all of her own children to play the piano; and,

WHEREAS, Lucy at the age of five, started her music career and, at age 14, was playing piano for a fiddler in Edaasen, playing for old time and square dances. In her senior year, she played with a 10-piece high school band under the name of Jimmie Downie Orchestra. Later, this band was taken over by Bill Deasy who changed the name to the StarDusters; and,

WHEREAS, Lucy played with various bands. The Wally Nelson Orchestra, The Andrews Brothers Band, Russ Harding Band, and Dick's Melodians Band; and,

WHEREAS, In 1942, Lucy married Jim Downie and they have two boys, Jim and Bob, and one daughter, Pat. Both boys are music majors from Northern and Pat is also a musician; and,

WHEREAS, Lucy retired from playing for dances several times, only to start a new little group and play again. By now, both Jim and Bob had a little experience with their parents while they were in high school; and,

WHEREAS, In 1981, Lucy's son, Bob, and Carmen Holland started the Bob Downie Orchestra. She was pleased to think that Bob asked her to play in this group. The Bob Downie Orchestra has played most cities in South Dakota and several in North dakota; and,

WHEREAS, Lucy also plays pipe organ for church services in the Presbyterian Church in Britton, and has for about 50 years. She also plays for weddings, funerals, and other community affairs such as farm and home shows, Snow Queen contests, reunions, singalongs, at the nursing home, and she also accompanies a men's choral group called The Marshallaires and conducts a ladies barbershop group called The Mello Bears; and,

WHEREAS, For many years, Lucy Downie has provided achievements in the art of music that gives comfort, solace and joy to all who hear her play. It is impossible to estimate how many lives she has touched by sharing this special gift. For this, she deserves our special praise and attention. For all these achievements, the Dakota Musicians Association has chosen Lucy Downie as one of the 1990 inductees to the Dakota Musicians Hall of Fame:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 19, 1990, as

LUCY DOWNIE DAY

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE